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Smart remains jailed as reaction mounts

Friends say Pam Smart not capable of murder

By FRANK RICHARDSON
Derry News Staff

Pamela Wojas Smart's friends and acquaintances say the person they knew during different periods in her life isn't capable of the murder.

Yet the 22-year-old Derry woman was jailed Wednesday, Aug. 1, for conspiring with three Seabrook teenagers, including one police say she was in love with, to murder her husband, Gregory Smart.

Gregory Smart, a 24-year-old insurance salesman, was found dead by his wife May 1

in their Misty Morning Drive condominium. The three teens were arrested June 11 and are now in custody, charged with killing Greg Smart with a single gunshot to the head.

But Smart's reputation as a hard-working, outgoing and caring person has led friends and acquaintances to doubt the charges and maintain their friend's innocence.

"She doesn't have it in her," said Terry Schnell of Derry, a nine-year friend and one in a close-knit bunch of friends with Pamela Smart. "They were getting PAMELA, Page 2



Derry News/Cristin Grier

Pamela Smart, a 22-year-old former Derry woman, remains jailed on charges that she conspired with three teenagers to plan the May 1 murder of her husband, Greg.

Smart loses bid to have court hearing moved up

By FRANK RICHARDSON
Derry News Staff

Pamela Wojas Smart remained jailed Tuesday, following a superior court judge's denial Monday of her request to move up the date of her scheduled probable-cause hearing from Aug. 20.

Meanwhile, her attorneys have accused police of coercing from teenagers the statements used to charge the woman with planning her husband's May 1 murder.

Smart, 22, a former Derry resident now living in Hampton, has been detained at the state women's facility in

Goffstown since Aug. 1. She was arrested and charged with conspiring with three Seabrook teens to kill her husband, Gregory.

The three suspects, one of whom police say Smart was in love with, are now being held at the Youth Detention Center in Concord waiting to see if the state will win a bid to try them as adults.

Smart knew the three, all students at Winnacunnet High School, from her work as media coordinator for the Hampton school district.

The investigation remains open, said Assistant Attorney HEARING, Page 3

No matter what they believe is true, everyone's talking about the Smart case

By FRANK RICHARDSON
Derry News Staff

Some believe she's innocent. Some believe she's guilty. Some are shocked and some aren't.

But everyone in Derry is talking about Pamela Smart. Pamela Wojas Smart, a former Derry resident now living in Hampton, was arrested Aug. 1 and charged with conspiring with three teens to plan her husband's

May 1 murder. Police accuse her of conspiring with William F., her alleged 16-year-old lover, to execute her 24-year-old husband, Gregory.

Since the three teens were arrested June 11 and charged with murdering Gregory Smart, speculation into Pamela Smart's involvement has been rampant, given that she knew the three through her work as media director for the Hampton school district, where the three at-

tended Winnacunnet High School.

Since her arrest last week, Smart has become a main topic of conversation for local residents at the supermarket, around the dinner table and on Derry area streets.

"The first thing is that it's hard for me to believe it could happen in Derry, New Hampshire," said resident Cindy Gray. "It's hard for me to imagine that someone could do that."

But when Gray and the members of her family found out Smart worked together during her free time with teens, including at least one of the suspects arrested for the murder, she questioned the widow's involvement.

"All the eyebrows went up at that point," she said. Other Derry residents weren't surprised.

"After the Stuart case, nothing surprises me anymore," said a 35-year-old

resident who wished not to be named.

"It's pretty morbid," said Tim Trow, 23, a former classmate of Pamela Smart. "It doesn't seem like anyone human could do that."

For others, the arrest comes as confirmation of suspicions that stemmed back to the May 1 killing.

"As soon as I read the case, I thought she was in on the murder," said Edward Gold-

berg, 39. "I was kind of amazed."

Diane McNealy said her suspicions were aroused by Smart's attitude after the murder.

"She didn't seem to be too grim at the beginning. A wife just doesn't react that way," she said.

But another resident found admiration for Smart's positive attitude after her husband's death and was TALK, Page 3

Fuel costs are on the increase

Friends say the Pam Smart they knew couldn't plan her husband's murder

■ PAMELA

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along just fine. There is no possible way."

Schnell introduced Greg Smart to Pamela Wojas when she brought her to a New Year's party at Smart's parents' Londonderry home in 1985.

"They just clicked," she said. Before their marriage, Pamela was known as a well-disciplined, academically conscientious student.

Pamela Wojas was born in Tallahassee, Fla., Aug. 16, 1967, to Linda and John Wojas. One of three siblings, she has a brother, Jay, and a sister, Elizabeth.

The Wojas family moved to Windham when Pamela was 14 years old. A Windham-Center School teacher, who remembered when Pamela enrolled in the school, said she "hit the ground running."

"She was class officer, popular, active in clubs, and a real go-getter," said the seventh-grade teacher, who didn't want her name used.

Pamela evidently brought that enthusiasm to Pinkerton Academy in Derry, where she made honor roll, participated in the winter carnival, and was a homeroom representative for four years. She was also active in student council, the Students Against Driving Drunk program, and was a cheerleader for Pinkerton's basketball and football teams.

Some of the students who met Pamela Wojas when she first moved to town remain her closest and loyal friends. But even the students she lost touch with along the way said they couldn't imagine anyone like her to have a hand in her husband's murder.

"If she is responsible, something has gone wrong with her," said fellow Pinkerton cheerleader and current Miss New Hampshire Melanie Bridges, who also had classes with Pamela. "She had a lot going for her. She was the hard-working type of person you'd expect to go a long way."

Pamela Wojas lived three houses down from a co-captain of the football team, who wished not to be named. He said he would see her every day at the bus stop and then drive her to and from school each day when



Just a year ago, Greg Smart and Pamela Wojas were married. Today, Pamela is accused of conspiring with three teenagers, one of whom police say she was in love with, to murder her husband, who was killed May 1.

'She doesn't have it in her. They were getting along just fine. There is no possible way.'

Terry Schnell
Friend of Pamela Smart

he got his license.

"We were very close on a strictly friendship basis," he said. "It's shocking that she would even be implicated."

He said Pamela was a very caring person, who helped him get through the time his mother was dying.

"She would just show up and spend time with me and my mother," he said. "It's been five years since I knew Pam Wojas. We were just friends, but I've always had the utmost respect for her."

He said she even put a caption in her yearbook in remembrance of his mother: "Mrs. S and Jay."

Pamela also dedicated part of her yearbook caption to her high school sweetheart, the other football co-captain, Paul Reis.

Reis, of Derry, said they dated for a few months before graduation.

"She was heavily into school," said Reis.

The caption, "Seka-n-Reis

Cup," was made up by a friend who saw the two in the hallways of Pinkerton in between classes.

"They used to say, 'Hey, there goes 'Seka-and-Reis Cup,'" said Reis, who was the co-captain of the football team. The originator of the joke, who Reis would not name, nicknamed Pam "Seka," after a pornographic movie star.

Having had a relationship with Pamela, Reis said he couldn't believe she was so unhappy with her marriage that she had her husband killed. He said Pamela didn't normally show her emotions, but tried to work out her friends' problems.

"She was always asking what was on my mind," said Reis. "When I knew her, that's the way it was. I can't accept she did it until I see real evidence."

Reis said they decided to break up shortly before graduation because they had different plans after graduation. He, a guitarist for the local rock n' roll band, "Joker," is a construction worker. She left after

graduation for Florida State University in her hometown of Tallahassee.

While there, Pamela obtained a bachelor of science degree in communications in just three years and graduated with close to a 3.7 grade point average, according to the records department at the school.

While living off campus with her husband-to-be, Pamela was one of the first disc jockeys of the then five-month-old college radio station, WVFS, the "Voice of Florida State," which was 89.7 FM on the dial. She was also the assistant promotions director in charge of arranging giveaways.

Pamela was known as the "Maiden of Metal" to listeners who tuned in for the two-hour "Metal Madness" radio show on Thursday evenings.

Heavy metal rock is still her favorite kind of music. "Halen" is the name of her dog and appears on her license plate, after heavy metal guitarist Eddie Van Halen, whom she interviewed while at the radio station.

The dog was a present from Greg, which he gave to her while they lived together.

Before she left to return to New Hampshire with Greg in the spring of 1988, Pamela trained Mike Ritberg on how to be on the radio.

Now a resident of New York City, Ritberg said he was shocked to learn Pamela had been arrested in connection with her husband's death.

"She had a few friends," he said. "She hung out with a better crowd, instead of the heavy metal crowd. They were people who were going to school and wanted to do something."

"I'm quite surprised. She was very outgoing and very friendly," he said.

Pamela Wojas and Greg Smart were married May 7, 1989, at the Sacred Heart Church in Lowell, Mass. Having saved the top of her wedding cake for their first anniversary, Greg Smart died less than a week before they would have shared the dessert.

Pamela came home that Tuesday at 10:15 p.m. to find her husband dead. She said in interviews after her husband's murder that she knew something was wrong before she entered the house because, unusually, none of the lights were on and Greg's pick-up truck was in the parking lot.

She said she turned the key, looked inside the townhouse, saw her husband on the floor, ran outside and began screaming for help.

"My first instinct was to get out and get help," she said in an interview with the Derry News.

Friends said Pamela's mental state after the murder seemed to them like that of a woman who lost her husband. Most said she was confused, especially when she realized she knew the three teens who were arrested in connection with the murder.

"If she's been acting through this, then she's damn good at it," said Steve Payment of Manchester, who is a longtime friend of the couple and believes Pamela is innocent. "She would never do something like that

with a 16-year-old kid. That's the biggest crock that has come out of this."

"She said she just couldn't face the fact of being alone," he said. "She really wasn't sure of the future."

Payment said he saw Pamela last Monday, when he unexpectedly visited her apartment.

"She was unhappy, basically like every other time I saw her since the murder," he said. "I personally don't believe she had anything to do with it. It's a crock. She was timid and caring and very much in love with her husband."

Terry Schnell, Pamela's longtime friend, and other friends had spent many nights over Pamela's Hampton home since the murder because she was afraid to be alone.

Schnell talked to Pamela at work an 1½ hours before she was arrested. They were planning for the weekend and Pamela had no idea she would be arrested, Schnell said.

"It doesn't make any sense," said Schnell, who doesn't believe Pamela is guilty.

Schnell said she met the girl who gave the Derry Police testimony implicating Pamela in the murder.

"I was sleeping over Pam's in Hampton and she called because she didn't have a ride from drivers ed and Pam picked her up," said Schnell, who admitted the girl's testimony baffled her. "Those two were really good friends."

Schnell spent time with Pamela before the murder and after. She noted few changes.

"She was settled with him," said Schnell, who recalled her being more outgoing as a single person. "They were inseparable and very happy."

"She would have to tell me she did something like that for me to believe it and then I wouldn't even believe it."

'If she's been acting through this, then she's damn good at it. She would never do something like that with a 16-year-old kid. That's the biggest crock that has come out of this.'

Steve Payment
Friend of Pamela Smart

The Smart murder

Smart loses bid to have hearing date moved up

HEARING

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General Diane Nicolosi, who refused to comment on the possibility of more arrests.

Since Smart was arrested, her defense attorneys, Paul Twomey and Mark Sisti of Chichester, have been battling with the state attorney general's office over the date for the probable-cause hearing, in which authorities would have to show evidence they have against Smart and give the defense a chance to refute it.

At Monday's show-cause hearing at Rockingham County Superior Court in Exeter, Twomey and Sisti accused the state of depriving Smart of her constitutional right to a probable-cause hearing and charged an affidavit police have based their case on is filled with "frivolous hearsay."

"Without a probable-cause hearing, she should be released," said Sisti. "The probable-cause hearing at Derry District Court was intentionally



Derry News/Cristin Gisler

Pamela Smart follows defense attorneys Paul Twomey and Mark Sisti into Derry District Court for her Aug. 1 arraignment.

bypassed as a result of the attorney general's request."

Sisti said he believes Smart is entitled to a probable-cause hearing before a county grand jury meets next week. If Smart is indicted by the grand jury, the probable-cause hearing will likely be canceled, leaving the defense without an opportunity to see exactly what evidence the state has against Smart.

Sisti said the court owes Smart the right to have her lawyers cross-examine the witnesses who gave testimony that ultimately became the deciding factor for the arrest.

Assistant Attorney General Cynthia White called the show-cause hearing a waste of the court system's time and limited resources, since a probable-cause hearing was already set

and that similar documents had been filed Friday in the state Supreme Court.

"The defendant, Smart, is trying to manipulate documents so that she can play both courts off the other," said White, drawing a parallel between the defense's actions and a child playing two parents against the other.

Twomey also called the affidavit, released Aug. 1 after Smart's arraignment, a farce.

The affidavit contained detailed accounts of Smart's involvement in her husband's murder as relayed by minors who came forward to Derry Police with testimony.

The affidavit charged Smart was in love and conspired with William F., a 17-year-old Seabrook youth who is accused of pulling the trigger of the gun that fired the fatal bullet into Gregory Smart's head. Smart planned her husband's murder because she wanted to end their relationship and was afraid her husband would have taken everything, including the dog, in a divorce settlement, according to the affidavit.

Sisti and Twomey questioned not only the credibility of the minors who provided the Derry Police with those testimonies, but also "missing material"

from the affidavit. They also accused police of trying to change the juveniles' story through long hours of questioning.

Twomey also charged Derry Police obtained testimony, in one case, from a 16-year-old girl who stated prior to Aug. 1 that Smart knew nothing about the murder.

"She then conveniently changed her story after being interrogated into the early morning hours," said Twomey. "It is no surprise that a 16-year-old would change her story."

Smart, wearing a black-and-white, two-piece dress, with her hair tied in a small untidy knot behind her head, left the courtroom as her mother mouthed, "I love you, Pam."

"As representatives of Pam Smart's family, we stand by her 100 percent," said her mother, Linda Wojas, to several reporters. "We believe in her innocence and thank you very much."

Twomey said his next move toward getting his client a probable-cause hearing is to wait for the Supreme Court's response to his filing for bail and to expedite the probable-cause hearing, which he said would be determined by today or Thursday.

Everyone is talking about the Smart case

TALK

Continued from Page 1
shocked when police arrested her as an accomplice.

"I really felt for her after a while and looked up to her because she had such a positive attitude about making it through," said Sarah Warren.

"I was just devastated when they arrested her. Never did it cross my mind," she said.

Many aren't so quick to label Pamela Smart guilty. They can't believe a woman could actually plot her husband's murder for what seems to be no apparent reason to them.

"I'm not sure," said Joy Barlow, 52, who doesn't live far from the couple's former Misty Morning Drive condominium. "I am a little confused about the evidence and am wondering if they are jumping to conclusions. It's still pretty much up in the air in my mind."

While she has not been tried and found guilty or admitted to the crime publicly, she is still considered to be innocent in the eyes of the law.

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